

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. Prior to entry of this response, Claims 1-11 were pending in the application, of which Claim 1 is independent. In the Final Office Action dated December 5, 2003, Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) and the drawings were objected to. Following this amendment, Claims 1-11 remain in this application. Applicants hereby address the Examiner's rejections in turn.

I. Objection to the Drawings

In the Final Office Action dated December 5, 2003, the Examiner objected to the drawings as including a reference sign not mentioned in the description. Applicants respectfully traverse this objection. Support for the reference in question can at least be found in FIG. 7 and in the corresponding description on page 15, line 18 through page 16, line 15.

II. Rejection of the Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,008,559 ("*Asano*") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,369,325 ("*Nagate*"). Claim 1 has been amended, and Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment overcomes this rejection and adds no new matter.

Amended Claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over the cited art in that it recites, for example, at least one of the plurality of projections having a substantially planar

surface portion configured to planarly contact a length of at least one side of the permanent magnet, the length being bound by an edge of the permanent magnet.

In contrast with Claim 1, and as admitted by the Examiner, *Asano* at least does not teach or suggest a plurality of projections configured to project into permanent magnet embedding holes. Because *Asano* does not teach a plurality of projections configured to project into permanent magnet embedding holes, it also cannot teach at least one of the plurality of projections having a substantially planar surface portion configured to planarly contact a length of at least one side of the permanent magnet, the length being bound by an edge of the permanent magnet, as recited by amended Claim 1.

Furthermore, *Nagate* does not overcome *Asano*'s deficiencies. *Nagate* discloses sides of permanent magnets 30 and 31 engaging tips of edges 36. However, *Nagate* does not disclose or suggest that the side lengths of permanent magnets 30 and 31 engaged by tips of edges 36 include edges of the permanent magnets 30 and 31. The tips of edges 36 in *Nagate* only engage the sides of permanent magnets 30 and 31 away from the edges. Moreover, it would not have been obvious for tips of edges 36 to engage edges of the permanent magnets 30 and 31. To minimize friction, *Nagate* discloses only the tips of edges 36 engaging permanent magnets 30 and 31. (See col. 11, lines 4-18.) Because the tips of edges 36 are very small, they could not hold magnets 30 and 31 in place if the tips of edges 36 engaged the edges of permanent magnets 30 and 31. Accordingly, independent Claim 1 patentably distinguishes the present invention over the cited art, and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 1.

Dependent Claims 2-11 are also allowable at least for the reasons above regarding independent Claim 1 and by virtue of their dependency upon independent Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of dependent Claims 2-11.

III. Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment After Final be entered by the Examiner, placing the claims in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully submit that the proposed amendments of the claims do not raise new issues or necessitate the undertaking of any additional search of the art by the Examiner, since all of the elements and their relationships claimed were either earlier claimed or inherent in the claims as examined. Therefore, this Amendment should allow for immediate action by the Examiner.

Finally, Applicants respectfully submit that the entry of the Amendment would place the application in better form for appeal, should the Examiner dispute the patentability of the pending claims.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention, as amended, is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of the prior art references cited against this application. Applicants therefore request the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration and reexamination of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims, as amended, are patentable over the cited references. The preceding arguments are

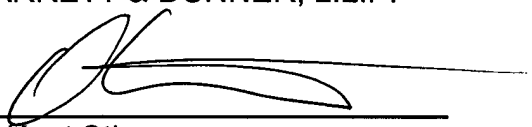
based only on the arguments in the Official Action, and therefore do not address patentable aspects of the invention that were not addressed by the Examiner in the Official Action. The claims may include other elements that are not shown, taught, or suggested by the cited art. Accordingly, the preceding argument in favor of patentability is advanced without prejudice to other bases of patentability.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this amendment and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: March 3, 2004

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